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TAGS: PHUM PREL UNHRC SP  
SUBJECT: UNHRC: SPAIN WILL SUPPORT SLOVENIA, AMENABLE TO  
BOSNIA

REF: STATE 21984

(SBU) Spanish Subdirector General for Human Rights Fernando Fernandez-Arias told Poloff February 27 that Slovenia is the only Eastern European nation to have requested Spanish support for election to the UNHRC thus far. He said that Spain supported Slovenia for the Council in 2006 and that Slovenia's candidacy is important as a representative of Southern Europe. Fernandez-Arias said that Bosnia had not yet approached Spain but that Spain has an important and close relationship with Bosnia and would be amenable to its candidacy. In any case, he said, Spain would not consider supporting Belarus under any circumstances. Fernandez-Arias said that there was clearly a need for more quality candidates for such an important institution, and he emphasized the level of caution with which Spain is approaching these elections. On the theme of EU coordination, he told Poloff that he will depart for Brussels February 28 for a meeting to discuss the EU approach to the UNHRC candidacies.

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